

## COLLEGE OF MARIN ACADEMIC SENATE

### MEETING MINUTES

October 29, 2020

12:45 – 2:00 pm via Zoom Meeting

**Senators Present:** Meg Pasquel, Karen Robinson, Peggy Dodge, Patricia Seery, Jeff Cady, Patricia France, Kristin Perrone, Dave King, Maria Coulson, Kevin Muller, Kofi Opong-Mensah, Joe Mueller, Paul Cheney

**Senators Absent:** Shawn Purcell

**Guests:** Rinetta Early, Gina Cullen

#### CALL TO ORDER: 12:45 PM – Zoom Meeting

- I. Approval and Adoption of the Agenda – **ADOPTED (Robinson/Perrone) with correction to include LRC Architect presentation as discussion item by all Senators present.**
- II. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of October 22 – **DEFERRED (Mueller/Coulson) to allow more time for review. Approved by all Senators present.**
- III. Public Requests to Address the Senate on Non-Agenda Items - **NONE**
- IV. Officers' Reports
  - a. President (Meg Pasquel): **NONE**
  - b. Vice President (Maria Coulson): **NONE**
- V. Committee Reports
  - a. Curriculum: **NONE**
  - b. Academic Standards: **NONE**
  - c. Other Senate Subcommittee and Governance Committee Reports
  - d. UPM (Senator Joe Mueller): UPM is holding a general membership meeting Monday, November 2 at 12:30 pm via Zoom. Important topics for that meeting include membership dues and one issue pertaining to full time faculty only. UPM and the district are looking at evaluations as defined in the contract and are convening faculty and administrators in a collaborative effort to recommend specific procedures and forms for inclusion in the CBA being negotiated now.
- VI. Consent Agenda **NONE**
- VII. Invited Guests: G4 representative Harding Dowell and Nicole Ghiselli  
LRC update:  
Mr. Dowell shared a slide show (copy attached). Planning for the new LRC is in the programming and conceptual design phase, building off a process begun last year. This phase considers how the building should look and feel for our campus. Considerations include:
  - Good neighbors present a friendly face to the street.
  - Relationship of the building to the central lawn and other buildings on campus is a focus.
  - The new building will bring together functions currently dispersed around campus. Those functions (wellness, library, enrollment services, etc.) and how they should relate to each other is the key consideration in planning building layout.Mr. Dowell then described three different design value approaches and engaged the AS in discussion of which value Senators thought would be right for COM for a building that we assume will have at least a 50-year presence on campus. The design values discussed were Warm and Casual, Bold and Sculptural, or Clean and Minimal. Taking advantage of outdoor

space as much as possible, including use of terraces and rooftops, was presented as a key consideration for the LRC. Senators feedback included:

- The warm and casual approach reflects efforts to include all people.
- Minimalism has connotation of whiteness.
- Large terraces can give the impression of emptiness. Smaller spaces mitigate against that impression.
- Exposure to heat, sun, and rain is an important consideration. Exposure includes orientation of windows and the impact of the sun interfering with the function of the spaces.
- Concern that money may be spent on design elements that don't work out. The Fine Arts building was used as an example of that problem.
- The perspective of people of Marin who are paying for this should be considered. Open space and nature seem to be shared values. Warm and casual approach seems to fit those values.
- Create spaces that students like. Open space does not have to look empty. It can look inviting.
- The warm and casual approach, nestled into the land looks inviting as a place to hang out. We do not need more concrete and glass on campus.
- We must be sure that we design with practicalities in mind. We do not want to lose functions that we had before in the LRC and Student Services.
- Don't overlook the need for classrooms to be included in LRC. Event spaces should take second place to consideration of classroom needs.
- Natural light and need for projection in learning spaces need to work together. Some classrooms in AC are examples of failure in those things working together.
- Classroom doors should be in the rear of the room so students don't have to walk in front of everyone when they come and go.
- We need both projection screens and white boards. Don't design the screen to pull down over the white boards.

Discussion then moved on to consideration of landscape and three site design values – Naturalistic, Informal and Tailored. COM landscape master plan should guide the decisions. SWA is working on the landscape master plan and is also the LRC building landscape architect so there can be confidence in the alignment of building and master plan. Landscape design values include balance of soft space with hardscape as well as the scale and orientation of the building. Senators comments include:

- The Kentfield campus was originally marsh and flooding has necessitated closures on campus in the past. Sea level rise needs to be considered as well.
  - Mr. Dowell responded that the bottom of the new LRC will be above the 500-year flood line and active stormwater management is part of the plan. He also said that sea level rise will be considered. Friends of Corte Madera Creek are engaged with the architects to inform these decisions.
- Big buildings with sparse plantings seem to be current aesthetic on campus. It looks tailored but not warm and welcoming like a naturalistic approach would.
- Senators questioned what and where the formal entrance to the LRC will be.
  - Mr. Dowell reported that the programming/conceptual design phase is informed by the fact that most people approach the building from the parking lot to the south. The social slope will bring people up with the primary entrance to the building in that direction. More private entrances are appropriate for some of the functions in the building.
- The evening campus experience is an important consideration. Lighting, pathways, and proximity of key pathways to landscape features that can leave hiding places must consider evening campus experience.
- Mt. Tam is central feature in Marin and views and connection to the mountain should be protected.

Mr. Dowell concluded the presentation with provision of a survey link that will ultimately be made available to the whole campus community.

VIII. Action Items: **NONE**

## IX. Discussion

### a. Policies: absentee Senators / President's communications

President Pasquel framed the issue regarding absentee Senators. Senators have two year terms and leaves of absence or schedule conflicts have meant that often a Senator is not available to attend AS meetings for a semester or longer. At this point, we do not have a codified procedure for replacement of Senators under those short-term scenarios. The practice has been for the AS president to recruit replacements. Considerations for developing a codified procedure included:

- We want to make sure that the process for seating a substitute Senator is transparent.
- The procedure we develop should take the responsibility off the shoulders of the AS president.
- Continued use of Zoom may allow continued participation of Senators who cannot be on campus during Senate meetings. It could help recruit part time faculty to the AS.
- We need to define how long of an absence would trigger the process for a temporary replacement.
- Discouraging people from running who can't make the meeting time and/or know they are planning a leave could have a negative impact on getting faculty to serve on the AS.
- One suggested process would have the Senator who was going to be absent nominate his/her substitute. The AS would then adjourn to closed session to vote on the nomination.
- Another suggested process would keep track of "runner ups" from AS elections and consider them first for potential substitutes.

### b. Creating "List Serve" community - **DEFERRED**

### c. Institutional and systemic racism at COM - **DEFERRED**

## XI. Adjournment: 2:00 pm

For questions or information concerning the Academic Senate Minutes, please contact: Peggy Dodge, Acting AS Secretary: [pdodge@marin.edu](mailto:pdodge@marin.edu)